

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 13 are pending. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3 – 7, and 9 - 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aikens ('113) in view of Bernklau-Halvor ('495). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aikens in view of Bernklau-Halvor ('495) and further in view of Long ('282). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)) as being unpatentable over Aikens ('113) in view of Bernklau-Halvor ('495) as applied to Claim 1 and further in view of Official Notice.

Submitted herewith is an Affidavit Under Rule 1.131 which establishes a date of invention prior to the effective date of the Bernklau-Halvor reference.

Accordingly, the claims should be allowable. Reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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